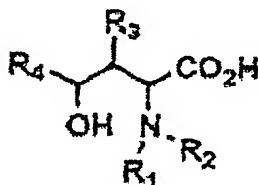
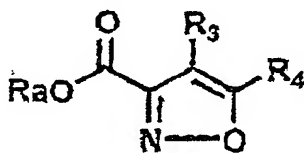


CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing diastereoisomers and enantiomers of 4-hydroxyisoleucine and derivatives thereof of general formula I

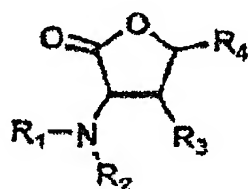


- in which  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  represent
- a hydrogen atom or
  - one of  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  represents a hydrogen atom and the other substituent is a radical  $R_a$ , an acyl group  $-COR_a$ , in particular acetyl, or else a functional group  $-COOR_a$ ,  $-SO_2R_a$  or  $-N(R_a, R_b)$ ,  $R_a$  and  $R_b$ , which are identical or different, being an optionally substituted linear or branched C1-C12 alkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl group containing one or more aromatic rings, comprising 5 to 8 C, or aralkyl, the alkyl substituent and the aryl group being as defined above, or
  - $R_1$  and  $R_2$  both represent a substituent as defined above,
- characterized in that it comprises reducing an isoxazole derivative of formula II



in which

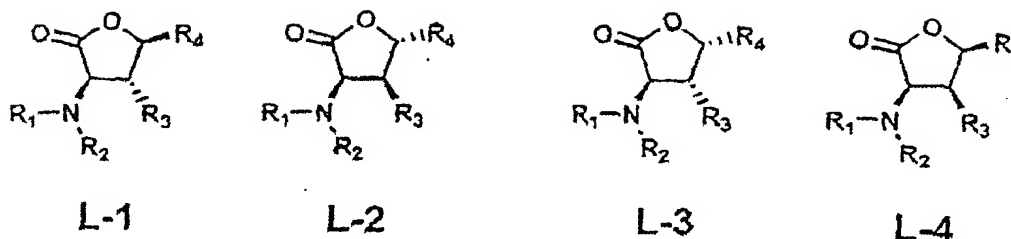
- $R_a$  is as defined above, and
  - $R_3$  represents a hydrogen atom or  $R_a$ , and
  - $R_4$  exhibits the significations of  $R_a$ , with the exception of a hydrogen atom,
- under conditions leading directly to derivatives of formula I or to at least one lactone of structure III



III

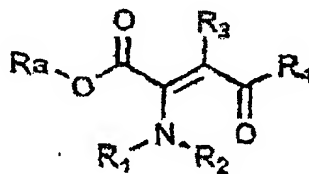
in racemic form(s), or an enantiomerically enriched mixture, followed by the opening, under basic conditions, in a protic or aprotic solvent, of the required lactone or lactones and, if necessary, the separation of the required form.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the lactone ring is opened by means of LiOH in THF.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the lactone of structure III is obtained by reducing said isoxazole derivative of formula II, leading to a mixture containing 4 lactones L-1, L-2, L-3 and L-4:

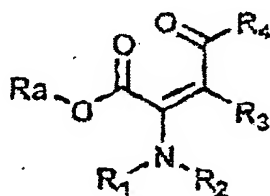


4. The method of claim 3, characterized in that, where  $R_3$  represents a hydrogen atom in the isoxazole of formula II, a group  $R_a$  is introduced subsequently into the intermediates obtained.
5. The method of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the desired lactone or lactones is or are separated in racemic or in enantiomerically pure form, the preparation of one of the lactones and/or one of the enantiomers being promoted by the catalyst and the conditions that are used.
6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lactones in which  $R_1$  and/or  $R_2$  represent a hydrogen atom are substituted, in particular alkylated, carbamylated, sulfonylated or acylated, especially acetylated.
7. The method of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises reducing an isoxazole of formula II in which  $OR_a$  represents a group amenable to hydrogenolysis, such as the benzyl group, this reduction step being carried out in a basic medium when  $R_a$  is other than a benzyl group.
8. The method of any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the intermediates formed during the step of reducing the isoxazole derivative of formula II are isolated.

9. The method of claim 3, characterized in that operation takes place in an ethanol/water medium, to which a solution of Raney nickel in ethanol and the isoxazole derivative of formula II are added, and the mixture is purged with hydrogen, the reaction medium being subsequently stirred under a hydrogen pressure of the order of 1 atmosphere at ambient temperature, giving the derivatives IV and V:

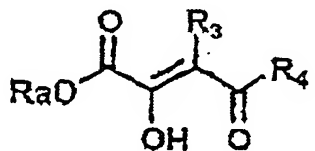


IV



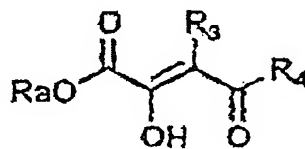
V

- 15 it being possible for the compounds IV and V to be obtained, alternatively, directly from the compound of formula VI.



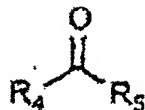
VI

10. The method of claim 9, characterized in that the compound V is subjected to the action of a reduction catalyst in a solvent in the presence of a hydrogen source.
11. The method of claim 9, characterized in that the compound IV or V is subjected to the action of a homogeneous reduction catalyst, of a chiral or achiral ligand, in the presence of an organic solvent, of triethylamine and a hydrogen source, or, alternatively, the compounds IV or V are subjected to reduction in an ethanol/water mixture in the presence of  $\text{NaBH}_4$  and  $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .
12. The method of any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the isoxazole derivative of formula II is obtained by reacting a hydroxylamine with a 4-keto-2-hydroxy-2-butenic acid derivative of formula VI:

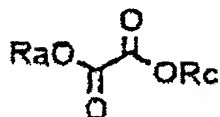


VI

13. The method of claim 12, characterized in that the 4-keto-2-hydroxy-2-butenic acid derivative is obtained by condensing a ketone VII and an oxalate derivative VIII:



VII



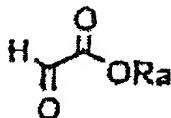
VIII

in these formulae,  $\text{R}_5$  represents an alkyl, such as ethyl or methyl, alkylaryl, vinyl or substituted vinyl radical,  $\text{R}_4$  and  $\text{R}_a$  are as defined above.  $\text{R}_c$  exhibits the significations given by  $\text{R}_a$  and may be, is identical to or different from  $\text{R}_a$ .

14. The method of claim 13, characterized in that the ketone used is butanone.

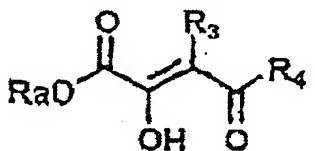
15. The method of claim 13, characterized in that the ketone used is acetone, leading to the 4-keto-2-hydroxy-2-butenic acid derivative of formula VI in which  $\text{R}_3$  is a hydrogen atom and  $\text{R}_4$  represents  $\text{CH}_3$ .

16. The method of claim 13, characterized in that the 4-keto-2-hydroxy-2-butenic acid of formula VI is obtained by operating in accordance with the Baylis-Hillmann reaction, by reacting methyl vinyl ketone with a glyoxalate of formula IX,



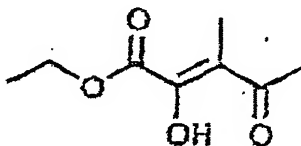
IX

5 followed either by a step of isomerization to compound VI, in the presence of transition metal catalyst, or by reduction of the double bond and then oxidation of the OH function.



VI

- 10 17. A method of preparing (2S, 3R, 4S)-4-hydroxyisoleucine, characterized in that it comprises the steps of
- a) synthesis of an ester of pent-2-enoic acid of formula X

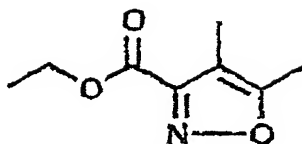


X

- 15 either by reacting butanone with ethyl oxalate or by condensing methyl vinyl ketone with ethyl glyoxalate, followed, without purification, by an isomerization reaction or by a reduction/oxidation sequence;

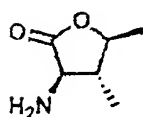
20

- b) the ester of pent-2-enoic acid obtained reacts with hydroxylamine to form the isoxazole derivative of formula XI,

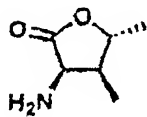


XI

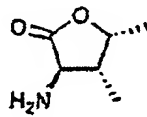
c) the reduction of the isoxazole derivative obtained to give the lactones 1-1 to 1-4,



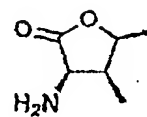
1-1



1-2



1-3



1-4

5

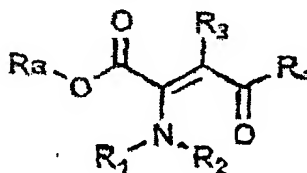
d) the separation of lactone 1-1 to 1-4 in racemic form, followed by

10 e) the separation of the enantiomer, leading to the compound A by opening of the lactone, and by

f) the opening of the lactone ring.

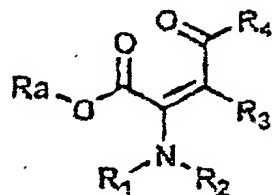
18. As new products,

15 the intermediate compounds of formulae IV and V,



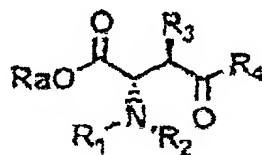
IV



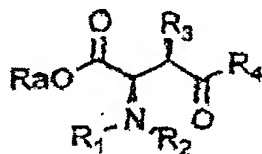


V

in which one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  represents H, the other being other than H,  
the compounds corresponding to C-1 and C-2, of  
5 formulae

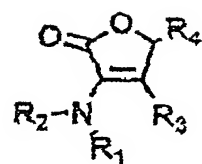


C-1

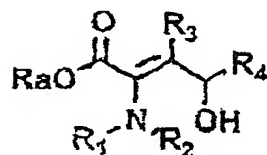


C-2

the substituents being as defined above  
irrespective of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  
the compounds E-1 and E-2, corresponding to the  
10 formulae



E-1



E-2

in which the substituents are as defined above in relation to the formulae IV and V.